CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

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Statement issued on 19 May 1974 at Islamabad by an official spokesman of the Government of Pakistan on India's explosion of an underground nuclear device on 18 May 1974

"This does not come as a surprise to us. We have been repeatedly warning the United Nations particularly the nuclear weapon powers and the International Community for a decade that India's ambitious nuclear programme aimed at equipping itself with a nuclear option was being undertaken to carry out a nuclear weapon explosion and stake a claim to the status of a nuclear weapon power.

It must be stated that the news of the underground nuclear explosion by India is a development which cannot but be viewed with the degree of concern matching its magnitude by the whole world and more especially, by India's immediate neighbours. This concern can in no way be alleviated by India's contentions that the test has been carried out for peaceful purposes. It is an incontrovertible fact, stressed by the super powers themselves that there is no difference between explosion of a so-called peaceful nuclear device and the detonation of a nuclear weapon. Therefore, any state which explodes a so-called peaceful nuclear device stands as much in violation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty as the one which tests it for military purposes. Hence, India's disavowal of intention to produce nuclear weapons is lacking in credibility.

The principal aim of Non-Proliferation Treaty which was concluded in 1968 under sponsorship and aegis of the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was to prevent the further spread of nuclear weapons among States other than the then five nuclear weapon powers, namely, themselves and France, Britain and the People's Republic of China. Now that India has taken the fateful step, throwing restraint to the winds and in contradiction to its earlier disavowal of designs to carry out a nuclear explosion, efforts of the United Nations and the International Community since Moscow Partial Test Ban Treaty of 196 to curb nuclear arms race have been rendered futile. The Non-Proliferation Treaty has been dealt a death blow."

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